

REMARKS

Claims 1-18 are pending in the instant application. Claims 1, 12, and 14 are amended herein. Claims 7-11 and 13 are cancelled herein. No new matter has been added as a result of the claim amendments.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

Applicant wishes to thank the Examiner for indicating that Claims 7 and 13 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Applicant has rewritten independent Claim 1 to include the limitation of Claim 7. As such, Claim 1 is now in condition for allowance. Claims 2-6 depend from independent Claim 1 and are now in condition for allowance. As such, allowance of Claims 1-6 is earnestly solicited.

Applicant has rewritten independent Claim 12 to include the limitation of Claim 13. As such, Claim 12 is now in condition for allowance. Allowance of Claim 12 is earnestly solicited.

Applicant has rewritten independent Claim 14 to include the limitation of allowable Claim 7. As such, Claim 14 is now in condition for allowance. Claims 15-18 depend from independent Claim 14 and are now in condition for allowance. As such, allowance of Claims 14-18 is earnestly solicited.

In summary, Claims 1-6, 12, and 14-18 are now in condition for allowance and allowance of Claims 1-6, 12 and 14-18 is earnestly solicited.

CLAIM REJECTIONS

102 Rejection

Claims 1-6, 8-12, and 14-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Bockman et al., (U.S. Patent No. 6,081,344), hereafter referred to as Bockman. In light of the claim amendments, Applicant asserts that Claims 1-6, 12 and 14-18 are not anticipated by Bockman. As such, Claims 1-6, 12, and 14-18 are in condition for allowance.

Conclusion

In light of the above-listed remarks, the Applicants respectfully request allowance of the remaining Claims.

The Examiner is urged to contact the Applicants' undersigned representative if the Examiner believes such action would expedite resolution of the present Application.

Respectfully submitted,

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